

Environmental Protection Directorate

Director's Office
March 12, 2015
Mexicali, Baja California

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
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This letter is from the Environmental Protection Directorate on behalf of Mexicali's City Council. We are writing to support the Imperial Irrigation District's petition to restore Salton Sea. We must emphasize that the Board has acknowledged that this is an important and urgent issue in California.

In this sense, Mexicali's Municipality joins the local government efforts from Imperial Valley and Coachella, since they will carry the burden of the direct and substantial effects.

The current mitigation water flow to Salton Sea Lake as specified by the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and the Board's Order WRD 2002-13, will end at the end of 2017. This will greatly accelerate the decrease of the Lake's water level. Without the restoration, the salinity increase and the decrease in the water level in Salton Sea Lake will have many serious consequences for the residents at Imperial Valley, Coachella, and Mexicali. Thousands of the Lake's hectares will be exposed to the air which in the event of high wind gusts will significantly worsen our region's already deteriorated air quality. This will increase the cases of health problems, in addition to the imminent impact on the local and migratory fauna that currently stops in this intermediate location during their seasonal migration.

The drying Lake's impact on the environment, public health, and the local economy, will have a long lasting burdensome effect for the residents of the Imperial Valley, Coachella, and Mexicali. It's the tough reality our region faces.

The Board should use their influence to bring together all their parties necessary to design, implement, and finance a restoration plan that will create a smaller sustainable lake and that will preserve a bright future for Imperial Valley, Coachella, and Mexicali.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,
Lic. Gustavo Magallanes Cortes
Director of Environmental Protection
Mexicali City Council XXI